Black Student Uprisings

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By Drew Pearson

CHICAGO—There is a very definite evidence of a link between the uprisings that are sweeping American campuses. But rather than any Communist link, the connection appears to be between black students, with rumblings of anarchism in the background.

The fact that the student rioting has been inspired largely by black students has led to unfortunate repercussions—an increase of George Wallaceism, Ku Klux Klanism and more white backlash in the North. This is why the majority of Negroes are so sour on the protests of the black student minority.

The original source of black extremism has been traced to the inflammatory speeches of Stokely Carmichael, who has now ducked out of the United States; Eldridge Cleaver, now an exile from parole violation; and LeRoi Jones, the Negro novelist. All three have goaded Negro students to assert themselves and claim their rightful place in society by any means necessary. They have argued that without violence, the power structure would never give up the power that allegedly has "kept Negroes in chains."

ANOTHER black militant who spread seeds of campus unrest was Nathan Hare, a former assistant professor of sociology at Howard University, where last year he tried to oust the Negro administration of the largest and most efficient Negro university in the world. This year he was asked not to return. He transferred to San Francisco State College where he became "coordinator of black studies" and has since been arrested. Ever since his transfer, San Francisco State has been in turmoil.

Another instigator of turmoil for turmoil's sake has been George Mason Murray, minister of education of the Black Panther party and an English teacher at San Francisco State. When, last Oct. 24 at Fresno State College, he openly advocated the killing of "slave masters" and named as among the masters President Johnson, Chief Justice Earl Warren and Gov. Ronald Reagan, California State College trustees investigated and then suspended Murray. This suspension has been one factor behind black rioters at SFSC.

Also behind the San Francisco State turmoil is the "Socialist Workers Party," which is on the Atttorney General's subversive list. It has helped to rally the support of more than 40 colleges, universities, high schools and other organizations behind the San Francisco strike.

The manner in which black militants have worked together was illustrated at Cheyney State College in Cheyney, Pa. In late November, 1968, nine Negro students were expelled after a heated argument as to who would be selected for inclusion in "Who's Who Among College Students."

Out of the clear blue, a busload of 25 students from Federal City College in Washington arrived in Cheyney about 1 p.m. Dec. 9. Shortly after 3 p.m. that day, a group of 100 students from Cheyney State and Federal City entered the administration building, forced their way into the president's office and demanded that nine expelled students be reinstated.

When this was refused, they broke windows and overturned furniture and statues. Then the Federal City College students left for Washington.

AT NEARBY Swarthmore College in Pennsylvania, the chief Negro student leader is Clinton A. Ethridge Jr. of New York City. Helping him, though not a student, has been Samuel Reginald Jordan Jr., a Negro, who while at Franklin and Marshall College in Lancaster, Pa., last spring was arrested for possessing fire bombs and a loaded revolver. He was convicted, but he is free on bond awaiting appeal.

He was active in the lock-in at Swarthmore's admissions office, which continued until Swarthmore president Courtney Smith, who had been conducting all-night sessions with the black militants, died of a heart attack.

At the same time as the Swarthmore strike, Negro students seized control of the main switchboard at Brandeis University outside Boston. Some of the Negroes involved had been at San Francisco State College.

Shortly before Christmas, students at Le Moyne College in Memphis, Tenn., engaged in three days of minor disturbances in protest over the way grades were computed, with the usual demand for more black history courses. They also demanded the end of required attendance at student convocations.

To foment the strike, the Invaders, a black extremist group in Memphis, appeared on the campus, intimidated students and attempted to convince them that they needed outside help whether they wanted it or not.

Almost every case of student unrest this winter has originated with a black extremist minority making almost identical demands for more admission of black students, regardless of their scholastic ability.

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